Procurement of wheat

*118. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has procured wheat from the farmers/markets during the current rabi season for distribution under PDS;

(b) if so, the total quantum of wheat procured and at what cost;

(c) whether the policy of Government to supply wheat to State Governments under PDS has been modified; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government ensures that the wheat supplied to State Governments under PDS is properly utilized?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 226.82 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by FCI and State agencies in Rabi Marketing Season 2008-09 for the Central Pool at Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1000 per quintal.

(c) No, Sir. However, keeping in view lower stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, from 2006-07, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS for APL families has been rationalized in June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively.

(d) The States/UTs have the operational responsibility of lifting the allocated quantities of foodgrains from the designated depots of the FCI and distribute the same amongst the eligible families/ration card holders of the BPL, APL and AAY categories through their network of Fair Price Shops. As per the provisions of PDS (Control) Order 2001, all the State/UT Governments are required to submit month-wise Utilization Certificates (UCs) to the Department of Food and Public Distribution for the foodgrains allocated to them within 60 days of the allocation month.

Utilization of non-productive animals

†*119. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of milching and non-productive animals;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to use these non-productive animals for carrying load alongwith the State-wise percentage thereof;

(c) whether Government encourages the efforts to generate income by producing the manure, medicines, pesticides by using the excreta of non-milching animals;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(e) whether such per animal average income is being considered sufficient for subsistence of their remaining period of life?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.